of Mines,Governments of Orissa and Jharkhand and public sector iron ore mining companies. However, there has been an up-trend in the global steel prices over the last three months.

Steel production

1224. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that steel production in the country have increased manifold during the last six months;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Indian steel makers exported 2.35 million tonnes during April-September, 2003; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for exerting pressure on steel makers and manufacturers not to increase steel prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) The production of Finished (Carbon) Steel during the period April, 2003 to September, 2003 has been provisionally estimated at 17.041 million tonnes which is 7.35% above the production during the corresponding period of the previous year.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In a deregulated environment, prices are determined by the free interplay of forces of demand and supply. The Government does not intervene in the market to influence prices.

UN Volunteers programme

1225. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians, at present participating in the United Nations Volunteers Programme, the areas of their assignments and the countries to which the volunteers have been assigned;

(b) the normal tenure of these volunteers in a particular country; and

(c) the number of Indian volunteers selected during 2002 and- so far, during 2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) Total number of Indians, at present participating in the UNV Programme is 287. The areas of their assignments are health, information technology, engineering, architecuture, social development and watershed management etc. The volunteers are deployed in India and various countries of Asia, Africa and Europe.

(b) Normal tenure is between 6-12 months irrespective of country.

(c) Number of Indian volunteers during 2002 was 265 is 287 upto now, this year.

Imports by National Rifle Association

1226. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) how much arms, ammunition, accessories has been imported by National Rifle Association of India during the last five years, year-wise;

(b) the details of distribution to the State Rifle Associations, clubs etc. during the same period, year-wise;

(c) whether there is any method to check that the respective clubs have utilised the ammunition for the benefit of shooters and for sport purposes only; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Unused shooting equipments

1227. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of equipments purchased/imported for use by the sport persons which are lying unused in the game discipline of shooting; and